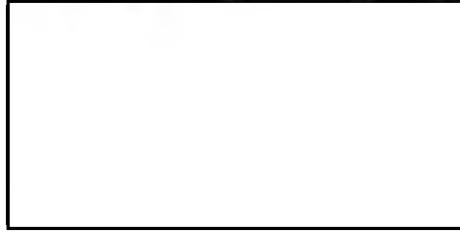


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Thailand: Bangkok's enthusiasm for SEATO has been seriously undermined by growing Thai apprehensions over the future US role in Southeast Asia.

Foreign Minister Thanat has implied to a number of Asian and US diplomats that he interprets the recent passage of the "Church Amendment" to the US Defense Appropriation Bill as virtually the final blow to reliance on SEATO. The amendment prohibits the use of funds appropriated under the bill to finance US ground forces in Thailand and Laos.

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Nevertheless, by raising the possibility of drawing away from its SEATO ties, Thanat has gone farther than before in acknowledging Bangkok's diminishing confidence in its alliance with the US.

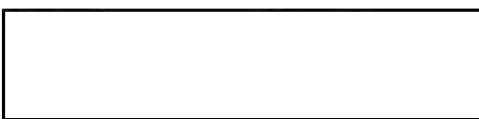
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